Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 4-10 and 14 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus having a carriage to which a head member is mounted, comprising:

a toothed belt which extends between a driving pulley and an idler pulley and to which ~~said~~ the carriage is attached; and

preventing means disposed at a position ~~where said preventing means are~~ opposed to a back surface of said toothed belt in the vicinity of said driving pulley and adapted to prevent [[an]] idle rotation of said driving pulley with respect to said toothed belt.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said driving pulley is rotatingly driven by a driving motor.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said idler pulley is elastically biased by a tension spring in order to apply tension to said toothed belt.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said preventing means ~~are~~ is opposed to a portion of said toothed belt to which ~~said~~ the carriage is attached.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said preventing means ~~are~~ is disposed nearest to ~~said~~ the back surface of said toothed belt at a position where said toothed belt is engaged by said driving pulley rather than a position where said toothed belt leaves said driving pulley in a condition that said driving pulley is stopped.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said preventing means ~~have~~ comprises a surface extending in a tangential direction of said driving pulley at ~~the~~ a position where said preventing means is nearest to ~~said~~ the back surface of said toothed belt, and said surface is inclined with respect to a straight run portion of said toothed belt by an angle greater than 10 degrees and smaller than 30 degrees.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a distance between said preventing means and ~~said~~ a back surface of said toothed belt is selected to be in a range between 10% and 90% of a tooth height of said toothed belt.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said preventing means ~~are~~ is rotatably supported for rotation around a position nearer to said driving pulley than an extension direction of said idle rotation preventing surface of said preventing means at a side opposite to the nearest position between said driving pulley and said toothed belt.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said driving pulley has flanges at sides corresponding to both width-wise sides of said toothed belt, and ~~other~~ diameters of said flanges are smaller than a height of ~~said~~ the back surface of said toothed belt mounted around said driving pulley, and said preventing means ~~have~~ comprises a surface approaching [[to]] said toothed belt in a range where ~~said~~ the surface covers said flanges at least partially.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein said head member ~~is~~ comprises a recording head for effecting recording on a recording material.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said recording head is an ink jet recording head for effecting the recording by discharging ink from a discharge port.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said recording head has an electrical/thermal converter for generating thermal energy used for discharging the ink.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said recording head discharges the ink from said discharge port by utilizing film boiling caused in the ink by the thermal energy generated by said electrical/thermal converter.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein said head member ~~is~~ comprises a reading head for reading information [[held]] on an information holding medium.